Click 6141

Hitler's war machine is financed by America's National Defense program!

On every airplane, from the tiniest persuit ship to the recently-completed super-bomber, the world's largest military plane, on torpedo boats - even on the houses built for the men who forge America's arms- Hitler gets a kickback!

The bombs that levelled Coventry and Birmingham, the torpedos that sink American ships sold or leased to the British, the tanks that rolled into the low countries and France, and the Nazi invasion barges might as well be labelled "Made in U.S.A.", because American dollars helped pay for them.

During World War 1 a similar thing happened: thousands of Allied soldiers were mowed down by bullets and shells made in their homelands and sold to the Germans by unscrupulous munitions makers. But it wasn't until 1935 that the Nye Munitions Investigation of the U.S.Senate made this startling discovery. This time it is not munitions we're supplying, but what Hitler needs more desparately, foreign exchnage.

It was a guilty conscience that brought CLICK our first suspicion of this horrible situation. Early in the morning of February a Mr. John F. Bergin phoned and wanted to speak to us.

"We are speaking now", we said,"What's on your mind?"

Mr. Bergin would not speak on the phone. He rushed down to our office. Rather nervously he handed us his card, on which appeared the name "Rohm & Haas Co.", a name which meant as little to us as it does to millions of other Americans. Mr. Bergin said he represented Rohm & Haas, but he didn't make clear just how.

"We understand you believe we have Nazi connections and are investigating us," he said. "Yesterday you had a man in Bristol talking to our employees."

"Frankly, Mr. Bergin," we replied,"we dont know what you're talking about", and we didn't.

With this Mr. Bergin assured us that Rohm & Haas not only had no connections whatsoever with the Nazis, but had been investigated by the FBI and given a "clean bill of health."

So amazed were we by Mr. Bergin's strange conduct that we decided to find out more about Rohm & Haas. After two months of intensive investigation this is what we have learned.

Forty years ago two Germans, the late Otto Rohm and Otto Haas formed a partnership to manufacture a synthetic dog manure necessary in the tanning industry. Soon they set up a branch in Philadelphia. Haas became a U.S. citizen. With the entrance of the U.S. into the last war the government took over Rohm's half-interest and later sold it for $350,000. Within a few years Haas bought it back for $400,000. Gradually the company expanded, going into new fields. Today it is of greatest importance because of its plastic manufactures.

From the beginning the company was a "closed corporation", owned by its officers and directors. And from the beginning it was unusually secretive. None of the standard industrial directories listed its officers and directors. Otto Haas is mentioned in Chemical Who's Who, but a notation reads,"Could not be verified". One government official said the company deserved a leather medal for secrecy.

Perhaps it is just the disposition of the officers that leads the company and its affiliates, the Chas. Lennig Co. and the Resinous Products & Chemical Co., to secrecy. However, our investigation hadn't progressed very far before other reasons became obvious. At its conclusion we tried unsuccessfully to see Mr. Haas, who runs the business. We did get to Staunton C. Kelton, secretary of the various companies, His admissions substantiate our facts.

German patents have been the backbone of the Rohm & Haas business from earliest days. Within 5 years of the sale of Rohm's stock, another cor-ation was established. Of its stock 30% was and apparently stillis held Germany. The American corporations pay regular royalties and dividends to man corporations. Most of these payments come from profits on National-ense business.

In all 400 patents, chiefly German, are assigned to the various Rohm & s companies in the U.S. About 90% followed the advent of Hitler. Six rs ago they made an "arrangement" with Rohm & Haas A.G., the German cor-ation, to "pool" their patents. Since then they have paid royalties to German outfit. Mr. Kelton admits the Hitler government approved this deal. While he at first insisted there were no German connections "at all", Kelton also got around to admitting the existence of secret licensing eements, sanctioned by the Hitler government, as a result of which more . money reaches Nazi hands.

To ~~km~~ Th. Goldschmidt A.G., for the use of "Tego", a plywood bond of r-increasing importance in the aviation industry, go payments which Mr. ton wont state. After first denying it, Mr. Kelton acknowledged what we eady knew, that there is a licensing agreement with the infamous I.G. benindustrie. "I.G." is a fabulously large German holding company, a long-e supported of Hitler, and the owner of at least 40% of the tremenduous man chemical industry. It is of world-wide importance in many fields.

At the time Mr. Bergin visited us he knew of the connection with I.G. handled one of them, acting as counsel for I.G. If Mr. Bergin was unaware I.G.'s early support of Hitler he should have recalled the exposure by McCormack-Dickstein Committee of the House of Representatives on May 17, 4, that I.G. spent

at least $25,000 annually spreading Nazi propaganda in the U.S.

Of the many Rohm & Haas A.G. patents the most important control the manufacture of a series of plastic products of unbelievable usefulness, strength and adaptibility. Plexiglas, a transparent shatterproof plastic, stronger and easier to work than glass, is the most significant of these. For Plexiglas alone the company has hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of government contracts, besides vastly larger contracts with the airplane manufacturers. In order to handle this business the corporation is building a fourth plant, on the west coast..

Profits on Plexiglas account for about half the royalties paid to Germany.

These patent assignments and licensing agreements divide world territory with the German corporations. Except for some dealing with tanning processes they usually limit Rohm & Haas to the U.S. There are indications that the U.S. anti-trust laws are being violated.

Even more direct, in spite of the efforts to hide it, is the German connection of Resinous Products & Chemical Co. Immediately after the world-wide reorganization of I.G., Resinous Products was incorporated in Delaware, on Navember 19,1926. The authorized appitalization was $1,000,000, but only 10 shares of stock were issued, all in the name of employees of the Corporation Trust Co., an organization specializing in the establishing of Delaware corporations. After filing the papers, these persons met and elected Otto Haas president; Mr. Kelton, secretary; and Edgar C.B. Kirsopp, a former British Army officer who is an official of all the Rohm & Haas companies, vice president. These men and two Germans were appointed directors.

The incorporators were but dummies in an international deal, and they served the purpose of keeping the names of the real owners of the company secret.

Real, owners were Haas and Kirsopp, who put up the cash and got 70%, nd Chemische Fabriken Dr. Kurt Albert A.G., largest independent plastics anufacturer in Germany, which put up patents and got 30%. The incorpora- ion papers are almost word for word identical with those of Rohm & Haas. hen asked why a competing company was set up by the owners of Rohm & Haas r. Kelton said, "To keep Chemische Fabriken out of a good thing." Rohm & Haas.

Recently Chemische Fabriken assigned its holdings to Chemie Holding .G., a Luxembourg corporation, a favorite dodge of Nazi concerns anxious o hide. Mr. Kelton says their latest dividends have been frozen by our overnment.

Thus the Rohm & Haas companies not only send cash into the Nazi tills ut have directors approved by the Nazi government.

Mr. Kelton doesn't consider sending U.S. currency to the Nazi's a angerous thing. He charges that today, while England is at war with ermany, English copporations, motivated by considerations of "sportsman- hip", still pay royalties to German patent owners. He told us we would elp the national-defense program by not mentioning the Nazi connections f his companies!

It is no answer to say, as does Mr. Kelton, that no valuable mili- tary information reaches the Nazis from such American corporations, which are unquestionably personna grata to the Nazi hierarchy. Perhaps none does. Maybe the amounts of royalties don't reveal how much we make of strategic products. But the fact remains that the Nazis are exacting tribute on our national-defense program. This subverts the program and makes it a means of helping Hitler.

The Rohm & Haas companies are not alone in this compromised position. Dozens of American corporations, some much larger, keep them company.

Something must be done about it.

CLICK hopes the government will find a solution.